

Remarks

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed May 20, 2005. With entry of this amendment, Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 1, 6, and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his consideration of the application. In the Office Action, new oath or declaration is required to identify the citizenship of each inventor. Claims 6-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoffman et al. (US 6,121,715).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, but nevertheless amend the claims as indicated above. In view of the remarks below, and the amendments above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

Oath or Declaration

A new oath or declaration is included herewith identifying the citizenship of each inventor.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112**Claims 6-23**

Claims 6-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because there is no antecedent basis for "said first and second capacitors" in the claims.

Claims 6 and 15 have been amended to recite "the circuit having a split capacitor voltage source having a first capacitor and a second capacitor." The amended claims include antecedent

basis for the limitation "said first and second capacitors." Thus, rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph have been overcome. Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5

Claims 1-5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoffman et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, but nevertheless amend the Claim 1 as indicated above.

The invention of Hoffmann et al. relates to a method and device for driving a piezoelectrically operated fuel injection valve of an internal combustion engine.

Unlike Hoffmann et al., claim 1 as amended recites "a circuit for selectively actuating an electromagnetic actuator coupled to a cylinder valve of an engine." Hoffmann et al. does not disclose an electromagnetic actuator. Nor does it disclose a cylinder valve. Further, no disclosure indicates that an actuator is coupled to a cylinder valve of an engine. Thus, Hoffmann et al. does not include all the elements of claim 1.

As Claims 2-5 are dependent on Claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reasons cited above.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that Claims 6-23 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 6 and 15 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Therefore Claims 6 and 15 should be allowed, along with Claims 7-14 and 16-23 which depend therefrom.

Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account No. 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1505. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

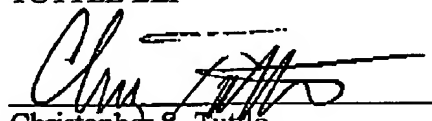
CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300 on August 19, 2005.


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Respectfully submitted,

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